

REMARKS

Claims 7, 14 and 17-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 17-30 are added. The added claims introduce no new matter. Claims 1-3, 8-13, 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,629,753 to Usui in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,139,087 to Hayashi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claims 1-6, 8-13, 15 and 16 renders the specific rejections of those claims moot.

Claim 7 recites, among other features, an acquisition unit for acquiring the first color characteristic data and the second color characteristic data; a generation unit for generating third color characteristic data, which is used in the color correction process, from the first color characteristic data and the second color characteristic data; an evaluation unit for evaluating quality of the third color characteristic data; a calculation unit for calculating a fee for generating the third color characteristic data on the basis of the quality obtained as a result of the evaluation. Claim 14 recites, among other features, acquiring the first color characteristic data and the second color characteristic data; generating third color characteristic data, which is used in the color correction process, from the first color characteristic data and the second color characteristic data; evaluating quality of the third color characteristic data; calculating a fee for generating the third color characteristic data on the basis of the quality obtained as a result of the evaluation. The applied references cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested such features for at least the following reasons.

The Office Action asserts that Usui allegedly discloses, for example, a calculation unit for calculating a fee for generating a third color characteristic data on the basis of the quality obtained as a result of the evaluation. The Office Action refers to col. 12, lines 18-20 of Usui as allegedly disclosing such features. However, Usui merely discloses that management unit 10 calculates an estimated printing fee for the printing of the printing data (see col. 12, lines 20-21). This brief recitation cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested all of the specific features of, for example, a calculation unit for calculating a fee for generating the third color characteristic data on the basis of the quality obtained as a result of the evaluation, in combination with the other features recited in claim 7, or the above-referenced features of claim 14.

Hayashi is not applied in a manner to overcome the shortfall in the application of Usui to the subject matter of claims 7 and 14.

For at least the above reasons, the applied references cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of features positively recited in claims 7 and 14.

Added claims 17 and 18 are likewise allowable at least for the respective dependence of these claims on an allowable base claim, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that these claims recite.

Support for the features of added claims 19 and 22 can be found, for example, in Figs. 34 and 9 of Applicants' disclosure, as filed, respectively.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 7, 14 and 17-30 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 7, 2008

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